

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION encouraging the Kentucky General Assembly to
2 take steps to allow public input and hold public hearings during the redistricting process.

3 WHEREAS, fair elections are fundamental to the democratic process; and

4 WHEREAS, fairly drawn electoral districts are fundamental to fair elections; and

5 WHEREAS, a transparent redistricting process, one that includes public hearings,
6 the opportunity for credible interest groups or individuals to present proposals of their
7 own, and the opportunity for comment on maps submitted to the General Assembly for
8 consideration prior to a vote will help engender public confidence in the integrity of the
9 election process; and

10 WHEREAS, a closed redistricting process, one in which legislative districts are
11 drawn by political parties with no public input or scrutiny, will weaken public confidence
12 in the political process; and

13 WHEREAS, Kentucky's 2020 elections, through a bipartisan agreement on polling
14 places, absentee ballots, drop boxes and other details, created better confidence in our
15 democratic elections in contrast to other states that saw fierce rancor and expensive
16 litigation; and

17 WHEREAS, nationally, and in states and communities across the country, partisan
18 divisions have raised tensions to levels rarely seen in American history; and

19 WHEREAS, this is simply not a time to allow politics to intrude excessively into
20 something as fundamental as a redistricting plan that will govern Kentucky
21 Congressional, Kentucky House of Representatives, and Kentucky Senate maps for a
22 decade to come; and

23 WHEREAS, moderate legislators are bailing out of politics all together because
24 partisan gridlock, largely caused by pressures related to primary races in heavily
25 gerrymandered districts, is pushing politics to the extremes and making compromise all
26 but impossible; and

27 WHEREAS, significant population shifts in Kentucky over the past decade will

1 require significant redrawing of legislative districts for the Kentucky House of
2 Representatives, Kentucky Senate, and Kentucky Congressional districts; and

3 WHEREAS, a good faith effort to keep partisanship to a minimum through the
4 redistricting process is the best way to instill confidence in the democratic process of
5 electing our representatives; and

6 WHEREAS, the General Assembly intends to use a transparent process for revising
7 districts, to consider the thoughts and concerns of citizens before adopting new
8 boundaries, and to adopt final maps that are fully consistent with constitutional
9 requirements, applicable laws, and the principle of equal respect for all citizens of the
10 Commonwealth;

11 NOW, THEREFORE,

12 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***
13 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:***

14 ➔Section 1. The General Assembly agrees that in setting new boundaries for
15 legislative districts, it is good practice to seek robust citizen input, offer opportunities for
16 citizens to review proposed boundaries, and allow a reasonable period of time for citizens
17 to prepare and submit comments, concerns, and revision requests before any legislative
18 votes.

19 ➔Section 2. The Kentucky General Assembly is encouraged to incorporate
20 opportunities for public input in redistricting laws and to take steps to allow public input
21 in the redrawing of legislative district lines.

22 ➔Section 3. The Kentucky General Assembly is further encouraged to hold public
23 hearings to allow input from citizens, organizations, and stakeholders.